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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
NATIONAL MILITARY COMMAND CENTER
MESSAGE CENTER

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ [REDACTED]
SUBJECT: INTERNAL DISSENSION IN AIR FORCE.

FOIA(b) (3) - 10 USC 424 - DIA, NRO and NGA

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1. SUMMARY: DURING THE PAST WEEK THERE HAVE BEEN NUMEROUS NEWS-PAPER ARTICLES REGARDING BRAZILIAN AIR FORCE INTERNAL PROBLEMS RELATING TO THE ALLEGED USE OF A PARACHUTE RESCUE UNIT (PARA-SAR) IN POLITICAL AFFAIRS OF THE GOVERNMENT. PRINCIPAL FIGURES ASSOCIATED WITH THE PROBLEM ARE AIR MINISTER MARCIO DE SOUZA E MELLO; FORMER AIR MINISTER EDUARDO GOMES; BRIGADIER JOAO PAULO MOREIRA BURNIER, CHIEF MINISTER'S CABINET INTELLIGENCE DIVISION; AND BRIGADIER ITAMAR ROCHA, CHIEF OF AIR ROUTES, FAB. THE PARA-SAR UNIT ALLEGEDLY WAS TRAINED FOR CERTAIN OPERATIONS (DEGREE UNKNOWN) DURING STUDENT DEMONSTRATION, LOCAL UPRISINGS, AND, AS THE NEWS-PAPERS HAVE STATED, ELIMINATION OF OPPOSITION LEADERS. THE AIR MINISTER APPARENTLY THOUGHT THE PROBLEM WAS RESOLVED WITH THE DISMISSAL OF BRIG ITAMAR ROCHA WHO WAS NOT IN AGREEMENT WITH THE AIR MINISTER'S ACTIONS, SINCE THE DISMISSAL OF BRIG ITAMAR A NUMBER OF THE FAB OFFICERS HAVE BEEN CHOOSING SIDES IN SUPPORT OF THE AIR MINISTER OR BRIG ITAMAR, AS OF THIS DATE, ACCORDING TO FAB SOURCES, THE AIR MINISTER HAS EVERYTHING UNDER CONTROL; HOWEVER ACCORDING TO NEWSPAPERS FORMER AIR MINISTER EDUARDO GOMES HAS STATED THAT THE FAB IS IN A STATE OF SERIOUS CRISIS. WHATEVER THE OUTCOME, THIS INTERNAL SQUABBLE IS LIKELY TO GENERATE A FEW ENEMIES WITHIN FAB AND MAKE THE AIR MINISTER'S JOB CONSIDERABLE M RE DIFFICULT, AT A TIME WHEN HE NEEDS STRONG SUPPORT FOR HIS FORTHCOMING DECISION RELATING TO THE A4F, ETC. *Aleandro Henriquez*

2. ACCORDING TO TWO WELL INFORMED FAB OFFICERS: COL BERENGUER, *Cesar* CHIEF INTELLIGENCE SECTION AIR STAFF, AND BRIG ARMANDO SERRA DE

ACT: DIA-15

INFO: CJCS-1 DJS-3 J3-8 J5-2 NMCC-1 SDEF-7 ASD/ISA-9 ASD/PA-1
NSA-2 CIA-4 CSA-1 CNO-2 CSAF-1 CMC-7 FILE-1(65)ZIM

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MENEZES (RECENTLY PROMOTED TO FOUR STARS), DIRECTOR OF PERSONNEL, THE PARA-SAR UNIT WAS IN FACT TRAINED IN 'SPECIAL CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS' WHICH BASICALLY WAS AS PLAINCLOTHES OBSERVERS DURING STUDENT RIOTS OR SIMILAR UPRISINGS. WHEN CERTAIN JUNIOR OFFICERS REPORTED THIS TO BRIG ITAMAR ROCHA (FAB AIR ROUTES, WHO HAS PARA-SAR OPERATIONAL CONTROL ONLY DURING ACTIVE EMERGENCY RESCUE MISSIONS), HE APPARENTLY THOUGHT THAT THEY WERE BEING USED OUTSIDE THEIR MILITARY MISSION, AND CONTINUED TO INVESTIGATE THOUGH THE AIR MINISTER HAD DIRECTED THAT HE STOP THE INVESTIGATION. THIS CAUSED THE AIR MINISTER TO RECOMMEND TO THE PRESIDENT THAT HE DISMISS BRIG ITAMAR ROCHA, WHICH HE DID. THE AFTERMATH OF THIS DISMISSAL HAS RESULTED IN HARD FEELINGS, CHOOSING OF SIDES, AND NEWSPAPER SPECULATION AS THE FINAL OUTCOME OF THIS CURRENT PROBLEM.

3. THE TWO SOURCES MENTIONED ABOVE HAVE DEFINITELY SUPPORTED THE AIR MINISTER, BUT ACCORDING TO ANOTHER WELL INFORMED SOURCE, THERE MAY BE MORE LINED UP AGAINST THE AIR MINISTER THAN THOSE IN SUPPORT. ONE PERSON, FORMER BRIG EDUARDO GOMES, APPARENTLY IS NOT A SUPPORTER OF THE AIR MINISTER AND HIS INFLUENCE COULD BE SUBSTANTIAL. THE (POLITICAL) MISSION FOR WHICH THE PARA-SAR UNIT WAS TRAINED AND THE DEGREE TO WHICH THEY WERE TO TAKE ACTION ARE NOT CLEAR AT THIS TIME. THE UNIT'S ACTIONS ARE CERTAINLY UNDER SUSPICION AS BEING OUTSIDE TRUE MILITARY SEARCH AND RESCUE OPERATIONS, BUT WHETHER THE DIRECTION CAME FROM BRIG BURNIER AT THE KNOWLEDGE OF HIGHER OFFICIALS, SUCH AS THE AIR MINISTER, ARMY OR THE PRESIDENT, IS UNCLEAR. IT IS THE OPINION OF THE AIR ATTACHE THAT THE PROBLEM MOST LIKELY GOES BEYOND THE ACTIONS OF ONE INDIVIDUAL, HOWEVER, THE REAL CORE OF THE PRESENT DISSENSION WITHIN FAB RESTS WITH BRIG BURNIER, WHO IS PROBABLY TAKING CERTAIN ACTIONS WHICH ARE NOT WITHIN HIS REALM OF RESPONSIBILITY AND THAT IN ORDER TO PUT THE FAB CASE BACK IN ORDER IT WILL BE NECESSARY TO PUT A STOP TO HIS ACTIONS, ONE WAY OR ANOTHER.

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